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National Association of Disability Examiners

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Commissioner of Social Security
P.O. Box 17703
Baltimore, MD 21235-7703

Dear Commissioner:

RE: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Claimant Identification Pilot Projects

On behalf of the National Association of Disability Examiners (NADE), I am writing to offer our support for the claimant identification pilot projects. NADE believes that this proposal will reduce fraud and abuse in the disability program and enhance program integrity.

NADE is a professional association whose mission is to advance the art and science of disability evaluation and to promote ongoing professional development for our members. The majority of our membership is employed in the State Disability Determination Service agencies and is responsible for the adjudication of claims for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits. While the vast majority of applicants are not out to defraud the program, every disability examiner is aware of at least some level of questionable activity on the part of some applicants and/or their representatives. We believe that any efforts undertaken by SSA to combat fraud are cost-effective and also provide valuable protection to the victims of those who purposely attempt to defraud the program. As with any new initiative however, appropriate resources must be provided to ensure effective implementation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Theresa B. Klubertanz
Acting President

cc: Sue Roecker, Associate Commissioner for Disability Programs
Lenore Carlson, Associate Commissioner for Disability Determinations
NADE Board of Directors